Committee (EPC) of NRHM with members from the Central and the State also monitor the progress of NRHM.

8. In addition, to the existing mechanism, Ministry has also initiated the process for undertaking concurrent evaluation of the National Rural Health Mission through independent agencies.

Funding support is provided under NRHM, as per specific proposals from the States/UTs in the Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) for addressing the requirement which *inter-alia* includes support for medicine, equipments, infrastructures and manpower.

**CGHS facility in Punjab**

3127. SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the problems faced by Central Government employees in Patiala (Punjab) for want of quality medical facilities;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to set up a modern CGHS health unit in Patiala to issue CGHS cards to Central Government employees posted there;

(c) if so, by when the steps in this regard would be taken; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Due to resource constraints it is not possible for the CGHS to be extended to newer areas including Patiala. However, serving Central Government employees in Patiala are entitled to avail health facilities under Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944.

Central Government pensioners staying in an area not covered by the CGHS can get their pensioner CGHS cards made in a CGHS city nearer to their residence for IPD treatment and also get Fixed Medical Allowance for their OPD needs.

**Rajiv Arogya Sri Medical Scheme**

3128. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to give atleast 70 per cent funds for implementation of the Rajiv Arogya Sri Medical Scheme in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) by when 70 per cent funds will be released to Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for financial support for Aarogyasri Scheme,

under National Rural Health Mission during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 amounting to Rs. 50 Crores, Rs. 10 Crores and Rs. 10 Crores respectively. In view of the nature of the Aarogyasri Scheme with prime focus on high end diseases/tertiary care, full support for this scheme under NRHM was not possible. However National Programme Coordination Committee [NPCC] approved a token support of Rs. 10 Crores each in 2007-08 and 2008-09 under NRHM for this Scheme, as an innovative measure, considering that NRHM is focused on Primary Health Care.

**Easily available, cheap and effective system of healthcare**

3129. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) while several systems are available for healthcare like Allopathy, Ayurveda, Siddha, Homoeopathy, Unani, which of it is preferable in terms of easy availability, cheapness, faster and permanent cure;

(b) what are the efforts employed to make it reachable and acceptable to the public;

(c) why enough efforts are not taken to promote and popularize certain systems like Ayurveda, Siddha, Homoeopathy and Unani; and

(d) what is the amount of allocation in the Budget for Health and how much out of it is set apart for each category of healthcare?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) All systems of treatment are unique in their own right. The preference of treatment, therefore, lies exclusively with the patients.

(b) and (c) Steps have already been taken to open AYUSH Dispensaries under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). The, Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Hospitals and Dispensaries has been subsumed under NRHM and is being utilized for co-location and upgradation of AYUSH healthcare facilities at the Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres and District Hospitals.

While the Department of Health and Family Welfare provides support to the State Governments under NRHM for appointment of AYUSH doctors alongwith supporting paramedical staff, the Department of AYUSH provides for upgradation of infrastructure, such as building repair, alteration, equipments, medicines etc. Funds are also being given by the Department of AYUSH for supply of essential drugs to ISM and H Dispensaries. In addition to this, Central Government Health Scheme is providing to the Central Government employees and pensioners services under the Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy through dispensaries/units in Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy.

(d) The allocation in the Budget for Health 2009-10 is given in the Statement.